

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04055 202119Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 ACDA-07 DODE-00 NSC-05
SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /051 W
-----017766 202158Z /66
O 202050Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4783

S E C R E T QUITO 4055

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USDEL OASGA GRENADA FOR AMB. TODMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: MASS, OAS, SHUM
SUBJECT: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR ECUADOR

REF: (A) STATE 142392; (B) QUITO 3883

1. DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE (REF A) TO PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EMBASSY PRESENTED IN REF B REGARDING ADMIRAL POVEDA'S INQUIRY ABOUT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY MAY HAVE FAILED TO CONVEY ADEQUATELY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF REQUEST AND IMPORTANCE OF TIMING IN RESPONDING TO IT. TO RECAPITULATE BRIEFLY, ADMIRAL POVEDA HAS ASKED FOR AN INFORMAL, BUT URGENT REPEAT URGENT READING ON FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT WE CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE TO EQUIVOCATE ON THIS ISSUE AND MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY. IF WE EXPECT TO USE THE INSTRUMENT OF OUR ARMS TRANSFERS TO ECUADOR FOR SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE ANDEAN POLITICO-MILITARY SITUATION, WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REF B WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SIMILARLY, IF WE DO NOT WISH TO LOSE THE MOMENTUM GAINED BY VIRTUE OF MRS. CARTER'S VISIT AND A GENERAL MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE FAVORABLE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WE MUST COME BACK WITH A MINIMUM COUNTER-PROPOSAL WITHIN THE SAME TIME FRAME.

2. THE AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM IDEA WAS SUGGESTED BY US,
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PARTLY AS A STALLING TACTIC IN LIEU OF OUR INABILITY TO BE FORTHCOMING ON MISSILE SYSTEMS, AND PARTLY AS A MEANS TO FINESSE THE GOE REQUEST FOR I-HAWKS, IF SUCH WEAPONS SYSTEM COULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED. IT HAS NEVER BEEN OUR CONTENTION, HOWEVER, THAT A DECISION ON FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HAD TO AWAIT THE FINDINGS OF SUCH A MISSION. INDEED, WE SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT IN REF B THAT THE AIRCRAFT QUESTION HAS A) BEEN

OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, AND B) IS OBVIOUSLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO RESOLUTION ON THE BASIS OF FACTS WHICH ARE ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO ALL. WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM WHOSE COMPOSITION AND SCHEDULE HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN DETERMINED YET, IS TO BEG THE QUESTION AND TO RISK FORFEITING ANY POSITIVE BENEFIT THAT MIGHT ACCRUE TO OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY HERE.

3. I WISH TO REITERATE AS FORCEFULLY AS I CAN THAT THE LACK OF A REPLY ON AIRCRAFT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL HAVE THE SAME SIGNIFICANCE TO THE GOE AS A NEGATIVE REPLY. I AM THEREFORE SOLICITING AN URGENT REACTION TO THE OPTIONS WE EARLIER PRESENTED REVOLVING AROUND THE F-5E AND POSSIBLY THE A-10 MINUS THE HIGH VELOCITY ANTI-TANK WEAPON.

4. FYI - MY INABILITY TO RESPOND ON THE AIRCRAFT QUESTION AT THIS LATE DATE IS SERIOUSLY HAMPERING OUR ABILITY TO PROMPT A MORE SUPPORTIVE ECUADOREAN PERFORMANCE IN MULTILATERAL FORA, E.G., THE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION AT OASGA.

BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. CASWELL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUITO04055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0176
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770639/aaaabihx.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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